

Army of Northern Virginia
April 10th 1864

My dear Sister,

This will be handed you by Mr. Shipp of my company, who does me the favor to call and get that black leather valise which you were kind enough to take to Richmond for me when you returned from your visit to the Army. A recent order of our Commander-in-Chief, limiting officers to thirty pounds of baggage, and requiring all trunks to be sent away from the army, makes it necessary that I should dispense with my trunk and procure something smaller and lighter in which to transport my clothes. The order took me somewhat by surprise and caused me considerable uneasiness, for I feared that I would be unable to get a knapsack or valise, and that I should be reduced to the necessity of sacrificing all of my clothes except such as I might be able to carry in a haversack swung to my shoulders. But in my perplexity I thought of that valise, and thanked my stars that I had not sent it to "Burnside" by Mother. We are making great preparations for the coming campaign, and confidently expect to give Genl. Grant the warmest welcome that he has ever yet received from Southern soldiers. Indeed we hope, by God's assistance, to free this portion of our beautiful Southern land entirely from the vile invaders. And when this shall be accomplished I have some hope that peace will once more smile upon our poor, bleeding country. God grant that it may come speedily! When thinking, as I am sure you often do, of the hardships, privations, death & martyrdom of our brave soldiers, do you not sometimes wish that you too could do something for our beloved land? Let me tell you, dear sister, what you can do--what it is your duty to do. Pray! Pray for our armies, our cause and our country--that God will lead our armies into battles, and that he will crown their banners with victory--that he will bless our cause and make it apparent to the World that it is a just one, and that he will send down to us his bright-winged Angel, Peace, who will cause this cruel war to cease and enable us to return once more to our homes and families. Pray also for the souls of those who are appointed to die during these battles which we are about to fight, and especially that He will deal mercifully with the souls of those patriots who shall not be prepared to come before his presence. I have not time to write more at present. Would be much pleased to hear from you after. Please present my respects to Mr. & Mrs. Smith & family, and--love to cousin [Leannie?].

Very affectionately your Bro.
EM .Hardy

Will you ascertain from [Leannie?] whether I would be asking too great a favor to be permitted to send my trunk to her to take care of for me I would leave it with Mrs. Hiden, but if I should be wounded this summer and sent to Richmond, I would need the clothes.

EM .H.

*certified to be a true and faithful transcription of
the original letter: E. J. Boone Sp., LCDR USNA (RET)
7 March 1978*